of concessions granted by Indian Railways is not maintained separately for each category of concession. However, information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) & (c) An internal committee has been constituted to conduct a detailed study of concessions being granted to various categories of persons including disabled persons and senior citizens. The committee has not yet given its recommendations.

Child Labour in Railways

3793. DR. MANMATH NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway authorities are aware of the engagement of child labour to sweep and clean rail compartments in all trains on all lines;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to abolish this inhuman system; and

(c) what kind of substitute measures are being contemplated to keep the compartments clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No child labour is engaged on Railways for cleaning of coaches.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise. However, Railways have a well organised system for regular cleaning and sweeping of coaches.

Losses to Railways

†3794. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pelased to state:

(a) the reasons for which apprehension has been expressed that the Railways would suffer a loss of more than one thousand crore rupees after the efforts made to reduce expenditures, and increase the number of passengers and quantity cargo transportation during the current financial year; and

(b) the items of expenditures reduced, which make up crores of rupees, together with other measures being taken by the Railways so that economic crunch can be overcome?

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The post-budgetary developments of levy of cess and hike in prices of HSD oil, retrospective revision of tariff by some of the State Electricity Boards, higher rates of incentive bonus to workshop staff, revision of family planning allowance, damage caused by Orissa cyclone etc. had put an additional burden of around Rs. 900 cr. on the Ordinary Working Expenses of the Railways during 1999-2000. Apart from this, there was also a higher requirement of Rs. 800 cr. for pensionary charges arising from implementation of the recommendations of the V Central Pay Commission.

While Railways have been able to absorb the impact of post-budgetary developments, except the higher requirements for pensionary charges, within the existing provision for Ordinary Working Expenses by implementation of an Action Plan aimed at reducing expenditure through economy and austerity measures in areas of staff, fuel, stores, contractual payments, contingencies and other miscellaneous expenditure, Plan Expenditure has also been scaled down by Rs. 735 cr. With this and draw-down from Railway Fund balances of Rs. 1000 cr., Railways expect that their receipts in 1999-2000 will cover their expenditure, both plan and non-plan. Railways will continue to implement economy and austerity measures in the current year too.

Railway Estt. Rules

3795. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Estt. Rules provide fixing up the number of Junior Scale Officers in Group 'A' cadre;

(b) if so, what are the rules;

(c) whether these rules are being followed;

(d) if so, what is the number of such officers fixed in different services; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons and what action is being taken to implement these rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The provisions of Para 111 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code Volume 1 provide that "the cadres of the services and